

Budget Reduction Bill Ideas

Bill Idea	Explanation
Governor's Emergency Fund Elimination	The Governor's Office holds these funds so that the Governor may access them to address an emergency without calling a Special Session. No emergency has required the usage of these funds since FY 2013. In the 2018 General Session, the Legislature showed interest in eliminating this funding but became concerned when the Governor would not have access to it in case of an emergency. To remedy this, a statute change could allow the Governor to access the Disaster Recovery Fund for the same purposes. With the amount of money available in this fund, the Governor should feel comfortable with the consolidation.
Constitutional Defense Fund Language Cleanup and Remaining Funds Recovery	When the budget for the Constitutional Defense Council moved out of the Governor's Office to the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, some funds remained in the nonlapsing balance. This bill would address statutory language for the Constitutional Defense Fund and remove appropriations from the Governor's Office.
Juvenile and District Court Judge Consolidation	This item was a result of the Accountable Budget Process over the 2019 interim. When comparing juvenile court judicial officers needed (judicial weighted caseload) to funded positions, the courts are appropriated a total of about 2.6 more judicial officers in the 3rd and 4th judicial district than needed. Over the interim, the Analyst recommended a reduction of up to \$1,425,400, or 3 juvenile court judgeships: (1) 2 in the 3rd district and (2) 1 in the 4th district. Conversely, the data showed increased workload – more than currently appropriated for district court judges – the LFA recommendation over the interim was to fund up to 3 additional district court judges. In order to fully realize this change, the Legislature would need to pass a bill to reduce the number of juvenile court judges in addition to the funding.
Employability to Careers Elimination	During the 2019 General Session, the majority of funding for the employability to careers initiative was transferred to cover other legislative priorities. As of the 2020 General Session, \$858,200 still remains for the usage of this program. While the Legislature explores the future of the Employability to Careers program, this funding would be available should they choose to discontinue the program. If the Legislature recommends removing this funding, then a bill could be necessary to eliminate the program.
Voter Information Pamphlet Elimination	Of 1.4 million registered voters in the state, 66,000 households (or 5%) receive a voter information pamphlet. The Lt. Governor's Office spends \$232,000 each election on voter information pamphlets even though all the information is provided on their website. This bill would remove the voter information pamphlet requirement from statute but save the state \$116,000 each year.

